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PROCTB-D-8  
16 January 1959

The following is extracted for your information from 19 December 1958 letter of [REDACTED]. The information was compiled during a trip by [REDACTED] to the posts listed. 25X1A9a  
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Jordan

- a) Except for school textbooks there is very little published locally. Most of the material available is published in Britain, U.S., and France for Western, and in Egypt, Lebanon, and to a small degree in Syria for Arabic.
- b) The government of Jordan has hardly put out anything in the past two years. I visited the Publication Bureau and was able to get only two issues of a bulletin which the government puts out.
- c) Hardly any Communist publications can be noted here.

Lebanon

- a) The myth that Beirut is as equal if not bigger a publication center as Cairo should be completely dispelled from the minds of all officers. It does not even measure up to Cairo in fiction material, which is plentiful here.
- b) Some government publications were purchased and the FO will forward the rest.
- c) Communist serials and books are available everywhere here.

Syria

- a) Syria ranks next to Lebanon in publications. The Ministry of News and Guidance publishes few items which were procured. Many Egyptian and Lebanese publications can be seen here.
- b) Government publications will be followed by the Post's FO. The Syrian University publications can be purchased neither in bookstores nor at the University itself. One must contact each author and acquire the book from him directly. Certain titles were procured for NM directly from their authors.
- c) Practically all Communist serials and Communist theoretical works can be obtained in Arabic in Syria.

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Iraq

- a) Baghdad offers very little in local publications. Despite the gloomy atmosphere that hangs over this city at the present time, I was able to visit several bookstores and printing (not publishing) concerns.
- b) Visited the Guidance and Broadcasting Ministry and had a pleasant talk with the Director General who promised to send to the Embassy two sets of the publications they put out. Also visited the Antiquities Department and was shown through the Library.
- c) Communist literature and periodicals of every description are all over Baghdad. One can note nothing else but anti-U.S. publications in Arabic on every newsstand and in practically every bookstore. While in Damascus this can be noted in only certain bookstores and newsstands, here these Communist documents can be found everywhere. It is astonishing how fast Communist publications flooded this city since the 14th of July.

Turkey

Very little material is published here. I have bought everything available.

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